

## Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification

The Idaho Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification system is changing slightly and includes new enhancements. Detailed information about the certification process and the application for certification will be added to this website as they are completed as well information on certification renewal.

A Mental Health Peer Specialist Certification documents that an individual has met the Idaho requirements (as identified in standards) to deliver peer support services. Certified Peer Specialists complete an intensive training to learn how to provide peer-to-peer support to others and to draw on their own experiences to promote wellness and recovery. This service augments and enhances the treatment experience. Certification ensures that individuals holding the credential have the experience and knowledge needed to effectively deliver peer support services.

Mental Health Peer Specialist support services are provided by certified individuals who meet the requirements established in the Idaho Certified Peer Specialist Standards (<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/Rainbow/Manuals/Mental%20Health/BHStandardseManual/NetHelp/index.html#!Documents/10certifiedpeerspecialistcpsstandards.htm>). The minimum qualifications to become certified in Idaho are:

- lived experience as someone who has a mental health diagnosis or co-occurring diagnosis;
- at least (1) ongoing and continuous year of recovery as verified by a qualified health practitioner/behavioral health provider;
- completion of an a training Peer Specialist Training that meets the Idaho standards;
- Experience hours

Peer Specialist certification is good for two years. Certified peer specialist will renew their certification and complete 10 continuing education hours per year. They will be required to submit a renewal application and certify completion of continuing education. Additional verification may be requested from time to time.

Additionally, a pathway for concerns and complaints will exist allowing a forum for ethics and practice complaints against Certified Peer Specialists. The committee will be composed of peers, program staff and partner entities; they will use a variety of